

P.O. Box 1984
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301
November 27, 2002

Country of Origin Labeling Program
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA
Stop 0249, Room 2092-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington D.C. 20250-0249

We would like to make our views known before COOL regulations become law.

First of all, we believe that the regulations must follow the law as Congress intended. "Born, raised, and harvested in the USA." Very simple and easy to follow. All meats must carry this label if, "born, raised, and harvested" in the USA fits. No exemptions on hamburger, deli meats, mixed ingredients, meats going to a service department, and Canadian cattle. No exemptions on live cattle as well as beef from foreign countries. If the meat is foreign, mark it as a foreign country.

When we go out to eat, we want to know where meats and other foods come from. Is it US or foreign products!

We believe that the USDA is making the rules far more difficult and complicated than then need be. Of course that is to be expected, since USDA and Ann Veneman opposes COOL.

We do not believe there is a need for individual I.D.'s, since there are already I.D.'s on most cattle sold. It is called a brand. When cattle are sold, there is also a paper trail that follows these cattle, known as brand inspections. This paper trail is required when there is a change of ownership, or when cattle leaves a county or state. A health inspection also accompanies the cattle when they cross state lines. (At least cattle in the western states require a brand inspection.) Cattle carry the brand or brands for the rest of their lives.

Also, most female cattle carry a brucellosis tag as well as a tatoo in the right ear, placed there by the veterinarian, which designates the state they were vaccinated in and the year. These tags also identifies the original owner. (Required in all states.) That's enough identifications.

It must be up to the person or persons or company bringing in foreign cattle or beef to make sure they are I.D.ed, and the I.D.'s and paper trail follow these cattle. This paper trail must follow these animals from the time of entrance (cattle and beef) into the US to their purchase by consumers.

We do not believe that the US should be the dumping grounds for the rest of the world to improve their economy. Nor do we believe that our economy should be brought down to an economy equal

to a developing nation. The COOL legislation is there to help improve the economy of the beef and cattle producers of the US.

We believe the US produces enough beef to supply our needs. If there is an under supply of lean beef, as McDonald's is suggesting, why are older cattle so cheap when we, the producers, sell? If McDonald's is correct, there should be a premium for this type of cattle.

Furthermore, we do not believe that foreign products provides cheaper products for the consumer. If you have any doubts, look at the price of oil before the 1970's and after the oil embargo. Has the price of gasoline and oil products been cheaper? We don't think so. Also look at clothing. Clothing is not cheaper, and it is hard to purchase clothing made in the USA.

We do not believe that the USA cattle industry should follow the way of the oil and the clothing industry.

If Ann Veneman can't or won't follow the law, she should resign or be fired. Lets get someone in the office that understands the law as written and will uphold the law and will fight for the American beef producer!!

Sincerely,

Jerry and Mary Jo Faddis

cc: R-Calf, USA, Senator Craig Thomas, Senator Mike Enzi